THE GRAND ENQUIRY, OR, What's to be done with Him?

4. 1706. 17 Fe. Age of Duke of Marlborough.

WHEN Beasts could every Office do,
That Men of Business now pursue,
Could Talk, Consider, and Debate,
Of Matters of Momentuous Weight,
They met together with Intent,
To make new Rules of Government,
And punish such as had made bold,
To be Transgressors of the Old.

BUT as a long continued War,
Had spread it self both near and far,
By Reason of the Birds, whose Rage,
Nothing but Empire could assuage,
Over such Creatures, as were known,
Not of a Species with their own:
So the good LYONESS, whose Sway,
Made it *Dominion to obey*,
Left it to them to think of Ways,
Not only new Supplies to raise,
But to Determine and Decide,
What of the *Old* was ill apply'd.

HENCE it fell out, among the rest,
That stood Examination's Test,
The Leopard's Arts, and Courtly Mien, Duke of Marlborough
Could not him from Enquiry screen:
But Depositions clearly made,
Prov'd that he had his Trust betray'd,
And had for Private Ends employ'd,
What Publick Weal should have enjoy'd,
While those that under him had serv'd,
Were for their Labours almost starv'd.

THIS Beast, of all the Four-leg'd Race,
Wanted for neither Wealth nor Place,
Not only had Supreme Command,
Under his Mistress, o'er the Land,
But, as it were, the Scepter held,
Over the *Forest* and the *Field*.

'TIS true, from Foes he scowr'd the Plains,
And made Nine Fortunate Campagnes,
As General, acted with Success,
(Tho' some say, more by *Chance* than *Guess*)
But what if Conquering Troops he led,
Must no One but Himself be fed,
And he curtail the Soldiers Bread?
Their Lives as precious are to them,
As any Duke's may be to him.
Besides, it manifest appear'd,
He never Fought without Reward,
Was paid if he escap'd Defeat,
As much as if his Foes he beat,
VVitness the Time, when *Muster-Rolls*,
Mourn'd more than Nineteen thousand Souls.

Gifts upon Gifts, upon him fell,
VVhether he came off *Ill* or *Well*;
And ev'n the LYONESS's Dens,
VVere thought too little for his Pains.

AT this, a *MASTIFF*, by whose Care,
The bleating Flocks in safety were,
And by whose Providence they fed,
Securely on the Mountain's Head:
" Shall Titles and shall Riches save,
" So Great and Dignify'd a Knave;
" VVhen I for One poor Sheep had swung,
" And without Hopes of Mercy hung?
" Where are ourPROPERTIES and RIGHTS,
" If Plunder turns to Perquisites?
" If *Theft* is nothing else but *Pay*,
" Or if They *Live* that on Us *Prey*?
" By my consent first lets displace him,
" And of all former Grants uncase him.
" Since, nor his Conduct, nor his Courage,
" Make up for Lofs of Food and Forage.
" Neither is what H' has done or may do,
" More than He owes his Sovereign Lady.

" THIS Act premise which Justice claims;
" From Beasts of such Illustrious Names,
" There yet remains, that for Example
" To others that on Laws may Trample,
" He to a formal Tryal brought,
" Should make Atonement for his Fault.
" Because whatever's the Leopards Doom,
" Another may supply his Room;
" March in his Stead our Armies forth,
" Equal in Military worth:
" If not much better skill'd in Arms,
" To keep us from approaching Harms.
" All must undoubtedly agree,
" The *PANTHER* is as Brave as He, Charles Churchill Esquire.
" And above Thoughts of Bribery.
" Should he disdain that Post to bear,
" Because the LYONESS's Heir,
" Others who're not so near of Kin,
" Can lead us Victories to Win,
" For Troops like Ours of Martial Breed,
" Must under any Chief succeed.

HE Spoke—— and with consenting sound,
Each Member nodding spurn'd the Ground;
Big with Events that were to come,
When the *BULL* brought the OLIVE home,
Whose verdant Branch had ne'er been plac'd,
Upon the surface which it grac'd,
Or given Peace to Earth and Air,
Had it been still the Leopard's share,
To fatten on the Spoils of War.
Which he penuriously prolong'd,
That he might thrive by those He wrong'd.

LONDON: Printed in the Year MDCCXII.